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### Judicial series slated for Missoula Childrens's Theatre

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

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April 14, 2006

**Contact:** Gladys Hardin, judicial project coordinator, Missoula League of Women Voters, (406) 543-4096.

### **JUDICIAL SERIES SLATED FOR MISSOULA CHILDREN'S THEATRE**

#### **MISSOULA —**

A three-part series about safeguarding U.S. democracy by promoting an independent judiciary will be held April 18 and 25 and May 2 at the Missoula Children's Theatre, located at 400 E. Broadway.

Sponsored by the Missoula League of Women Voters and The University of Montana School of Law, the event is titled "...and Justice for All." It is free and open to the public. Each session will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in the second-floor meeting room.

On April 18, UM Professor Cynthia Ford and UM Assistant Professor Maylinn Smith will present "The Courts." They will describe the court system, the timetables it uses and why the courts operate the way they do.

On April 25, four leaders in the Montana court system will present "Judges," which will describe the roles judges play in the judicial process. The presenters will be Donald Molloy, a U.S. district court chief judge; Jim Rice, a Montana Supreme Court justice; Ed McLean, a Montana district court judge; and Karen Orzech, a Missoula justice of the peace.

On May 2, three speakers will present "Why an Independent Judiciary?" They will discuss the benefits of an independent judiciary and the rule of law. The presenters will be

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U.S. Magistrate Judge Leif Erickson; Betsy Griffing, a UM law visiting assistant professor; and state Sen. Jon Ellingson.

The series is funded by the League of Women Voters of the U.S. Education Fund and the Constitutional and Legal Policy Program of the Open Society Institute. For more information, call Gladys Hardin, League of Women Voters judicial project coordinator, at (406) 543-4096.

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